

# Franciscan Skemp

## *Mayo Health System*

### Franciscan Skemp Honored with Area's First Energy Star Award

Franciscan Skemp is proud to announce that its La Crosse Campus St. Francis Building is the first healthcare building honored with the Energy Star label in Southwestern Wisconsin.

The recognition is given by the National Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to buildings with proven energy management strategies that attain superior standards of efficient energy consumption. In order to qualify for the award a minimum score of 75 (100 point scale) is required on the EPA's Energy Performance Rating System. Franciscan Skemp Healthcare scored 90 points. The Energy Star award is based on an energy performance assessment tool that evaluates 12 months of energy consumption data, the square footage of the building, weather data for the geographical location, degree-days, and other meaningful criteria.



"This is important recognition of the value that our staff is doing the right thing of energy conservation," said Franciscan Skemp Vice President Daniel Schaefer. "We are grateful for the recognition by the EPA that further verifies the significant energy savings directly related to saving natural resources."

The idea of accomplishing this goal started when Director of Facility Services Rajendra (Raj) Shah approached leadership of Franciscan Skemp with a proposal to participate in the EPA's "Energy Star" program. Being an engineer, Shah has a passion for benchmarking and improving utility cost and energy conservation. The organization's Facility Committee, chaired by Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, supported the participation and encouraged implementation of the program.

The very first step was simply data collection and analysis with utility consumption tracked against the square footage of a building. The past four years of data on our business growth and physical building space maintained vs. reducing utility cost per square foot was very encouraging.

"It is such an honor to be recognized among the peers at a national level for the excellence and consciousness toward the cost," said Shah. "This award is proof of the dedication our Facility Services staff has to the organization as well as to the mother earth. Our staff worked so hard to provide the highest quality service with possible financial savings." Through these efforts in the last 12 months Franciscan Skemp has saved approximately 104 million British Thermal Units (BTUs).

The next step according to Shah is to review and compare the FSH Arcadia and Sparta campuses. "We will be looking for more ideas from our staff," Shah said. "So far we picked low hanging fruits only and have not exhausted all ideas for savings yet. A continuous effort from every staff member will definitely bring us the maximum savings possible without compromising human comfort in the healthcare business."

Shah has 28 years of experience in design, construction, and maintenance of healthcare facilities. Shah is professionally licensed mechanical engineer, with an MBA in Healthcare. He is Certified Healthcare Facility Manager and recipient of the American Society of Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) prestigious "Emerging Leader's Award." Shah is working on the prestigious "Fellow" level in ASHE.